AMENDMENT

In the Specification

Please add the following section header and paragraph after the title:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

The present application contains subject matter related to similar subject matter disclosed in co-pending application Serial Nos. 09/533,024 and 09/533,048, both filed March 22, 2000.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28, as follows. For convenience of prosecution, unamended claims 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 23, and 29-32 are also shown below so that all of the pending claims can be easily viewed together.

1. (Amended) A method, comprising:

broadcasting meta-data to one or more client systems, the meta-data including descriptions of content corresponding to respective data files from among a plurality of data files up for consideration for a future broadcast;

processing the meta-data at each of the one or more client systems to generate a content-rating interface via which content ratings corresponding to the plurality of data files may be obtained;

obtaining content ratings for respective data files via the content-rating interface;

receiving content ratings [of each one of] for the plurality of data files from the one or more client systems; and

broadcasting a selected portion of the plurality of data files to the one or more client systems in response to the content ratings received from the one or more client systems.

2. (Amended twice) The method of claim 1 wherein the selected portion of the plurality of data files that are broadcast are data files having higher content ratings than a remaining portion of data files that are not selected for broadcast.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising combining the ratings received from the client systems, if ratings are received from more than one client system, to generate an overall ratings list of the plurality of data files.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising broadcasting a broadcast schedule of the selected portion of the plurality of data files prior to broadcasting the selected portion of the plurality of data files.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising broadcasting a broadcast schedule of the meta-data prior to broadcasting the meta-data to the one or more client systems.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein broadcasting the selected portion of the plurality of data files to the one or more client systems comprises broadcasting one of the plurality of data files having a higher rating prior to broadcasting one of the plurality of data files having a lower rating.

7. (Amended twice) A method, comprising:

receiving meta-data broadcast by a server system, the meta-data including descriptions of content corresponding to respective data files from among a first plurality of data files up for consideration for a future broadcast;

obtaining ratings via a content rating table for at least one of the first plurality of data files described by the meta-data, the content rating table generated using the meta-data and containing ratings derived from observation of data files previously accessed;

transmitting the ratings of the at least one of the first plurality of data files to the server system; and

receiving a second plurality of data files broadcast by the server system.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising:

receiving a meta-data broadcast schedule broadcast by the server system; and

activating the client system in response to the meta-data broadcast schedule to receive the meta-data.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the first plurality of data files includes the second plurality of data files.

10. (Amended twice) A method, comprising:

receiving meta-data broadcast by a server system, the meta-data including descriptions of a first plurality of data files;

rating in response to a content rating table at least one of the first plurality of data files described by the meta-data, the content rating table generated using the meta-data and containing ratings derived from observation of data files previously accessed via the apparatus;

transmitting the ratings of the at least one of the first plurality of data files to the server system;

receiving a broadcast schedule of a second plurality of data files broadcast by the server system; and

selectively receiving, based on the content rating table, a portion of the second plurality of data files broadcast by the server system.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising:

receiving a meta-data broadcast schedule broadcast by the server system; and

activating the client system in response to the meta-data broadcast schedule to receive the meta-data.

12. The method of claim 10 further comprising receiving a broadcast schedule of the second plurality of data files prior to selectively receiving the portion of the second plurality of data files.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the first plurality of data files includes the second plurality of data files.

14. (Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;

a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications interface coupled to broadcast data to one or more client systems, the communications interface further coupled to receive data from the one or more client systems;

a storage device coupled to the processor, having sequences of instructions stored therein, which when executed by the processor cause the processor to

broadcast meta-data to one or more client systems, the meta-data including descriptions of content corresponding to respective data files from among a plurality of data files up for consideration for a future broadcast;

receive content ratings for the plurality of data files from the one or more client systems, the content ratings for each data file being identified by corresponding meta-data; and

broadcast a selected portion of the plurality of data files to the one or more client systems in response to the ratings received from the one or more client systems.

15. (Amended twice) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the selected portion of the plurality of data files that are broadcast are data files having higher content ratings than a remaining portion of data files that are not selected for broadcast.

16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is further caused to broadcast a broadcast schedule of the portion of the plurality of data files prior to broadcasting the portion of the plurality of data files.

17. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the processor is further caused to broadcast a broadcast schedule of the meta-data prior to broadcasting the meta-data to the one or more client systems.

18. (Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;

a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications interface coupled receive data broadcast from a server system, the communications interface further coupled to transmit data to the server system;

a storage device coupled to the processor, having sequences of instructions stored therein, which when executed by the processor cause the processor to

receive meta-data broadcast by a server system, the meta-data including descriptions of a first plurality of data files;

rate, in response to a content rating table, at least one of the first plurality of data files described by the meta-data, the content rating table generated using the meta-data and containing ratings derived from observation of data files previously accessed via the apparatus;

transmit the ratings of the at least one of the first plurality of data files to the server system;

receive a second plurality of data files broadcast by the server system; and

store, based on the content rating table, one or more of the second plurality of data files broadcast by the server system.

19. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the processor is further caused to: receive a meta-data broadcast schedule broadcast by the server system; and

activate the client system in response to the meta-data broadcast schedule to receive the meta-data.

20. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the first plurality of data files includes the second plurality of data files.

21. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor having circuitry to execute instructions;

a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications interface coupled receive data broadcast from a server system, the communications interface further coupled to transmit data to the server system;

a storage device coupled to the processor, having sequences of instructions stored therein, which when executed by the processor cause the processor to

receive meta-data broadcast by a server system, the meta-data including descriptions of content corresponding to respective data files from among a first plurality of data files up for consideration for a future broadcast;

rate, in response to a content rating table, at least one of the first plurality of data files described by the meta-data, the content rating table generated using the meta-data and containing ratings derived from observation of data files previously accessed via the apparatus;

transmit the ratings of the at least one of the first plurality of data files to the server system;

receive a broadcast schedule of a second plurality of data files broadcast by the server system;

selectively receive based on the content rating table a portion of the second plurality of data files broadcast by the server system; and

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store the portion of the second plurality of data files broadcast by the server system.

22. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the processor is further caused to receive a meta-data broadcast schedule broadcast by the server system; and

activate the client system in response to the meta-data broadcast schedule to receive the meta-data.

23. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the processor is further caused to receive a broadcast schedule of the second plurality of data files prior to selectively receiving the portion of the second plurality of data files.

24. (Amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed by a processor cause the processor to

broadcast meta-data to one or more client systems, the meta-data including descriptions of content corresponding to respective data files from among a plurality of data files up for consideration for a future broadcast;

receive content ratings for the plurality of data files from the one or more client systems, the content ratings for each data file being identified by corresponding meta-data; and

broadcast a selected portion of the plurality of data files to the one or more client systems in response to the ratings received from the one or more client systems.

25. (Amended twice) The machine-readable medium of claim 24 wherein the selected portion of the plurality of data files that are broadcast are data files having higher content ratings than a remaining portion of data files that is not selected for broadcast.

26. (Amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed by a processor cause the processor to

receive meta-data broadcast by a server system, the meta-data including descriptions of content corresponding to respective data files from among a first plurality of data files up for consideration for a future broadcast;

rate, in response to a content rating table, at least one of the first plurality of data files described by the meta-data, the content rating table generated using the meta-data and containing ratings derived from observation of data files previously accessed via a client system containing the processor;

transmit the ratings of the at least one of the first plurality of data files to the server system;

receive a second plurality of data files broadcast by the server system; and

store, based on the content rating table, one or more of the second plurality of data files broadcast by the server system.

27. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the process is further caused to : receive a meta-data broadcast schedule broadcast by the server system; and

activate a client system containing the processor in response to the meta-data broadcast schedule to receive the meta-data.

28. (Amended) A system, comprising:

a broadcast server; and

one or more client systems coupled to the broadcast server;

wherein the broadcast server is coupled to broadcast meta-data to the one or more client systems, the meta-data including descriptions of content corresponding to respective data files from among a plurality of data files up for consideration for a future broadcast;

wherein the one or more client systems are coupled to rate in response to a content rating table one or more of the plurality of data files described by the meta-data, the content rating table generated using the meta-data and containing ratings derived from observation of data files previously accessed via that client;

wherein the one or more client systems are coupled to transmit to the broadcast server the ratings of the plurality of data files;

wherein the broadcast system is coupled to select a portion of the plurality of the data files in response to the ratings received from the one or more client systems; and